



## Studies on Traditional Ethno-Medico-Flora Used By Mahadeo Kolis from Ghatsiras Areas in Pathardi Taluka of Ahmednagar District (M.S.), India

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### ABSTRACT

*Ghatsiras is the religious hilly place famous for the wild ethnoflora along its south side. It is located along western side of Pathardi Taluka in Ahmednagar district (M.S) India and inhabited mostly by Mahadeo kolis populace that still rely even today on traditional ethnobotanical knowledge for certain needs and also for cure of specific human ailments. Present communication focuses on the ethnobotanically important medicinal plants which are in close vicinity of the bhils community in study area. In all total, 24 plant species belonging to 11 families, have been reported here.*

*KEYWORDS: Ethnomedicine, Medicinal plants, Maharashtra, Traditional knowledge*

### BACKGROUND

Extensive ethnobotanical surveys were arranged in the selected study area for collection and identification of traditionally important wild ethnoflora. The study area namely Ghatsiras is located along western side of the Pathardi Taluka of Ahmednagar District, Maharashtra. The information presented here has been gathered from Mahadeo Kolis community having traditional knowledge through verbal and informal group discussions and personal interviews in the period from June 2005 to August 2007.

### INTRODUCTION

In recent years, interests have been increased in ethnobotanical explorations mainly due to the renewed interest in traditional herbal knowledge. Ancient literature on ethnobotany suggests that the primitive people of earlier centuries were using several kinds of food and medicinal plants for healthcare needs and general use. Ancient well famous epics like Charak Samhita suggests that the tribal populace including Mahadeo Kolis have been using wild ethnoflora since long ago for various purposes viz. food, medicinal, fodder, healthcare needs etc. It has been found that almost all the wild plants were in use by the traditional healers and ethnic societies of world either as a source of food or as a source of herbal drug. Therefore it is our prime duty to study all these wild plants scientifically. From last three decades considerable progress has been occurred in the field of ethnobotany due to increased interest.

In recent years, on global level several ethnobotanically important plants have been documented along with their use. Same traditional knowledge becoming an effective mode for the survival of the tribals and ethnic groups throughout the world. These people are still relying on wild plant for cure and care of a variety of human ailments and the pet animals.

A survey of literature indicates that [1-4] have studied the vegetation and described wild ethnoflora certain parts of India as well.

### MATERIALS AND METHOD

An intensive field surveys were arranged during the period from June 2005 to August 2007 for local name identification of ethnobotanically important plants. For identification and collection of the above plants, traditional healers from Mahadeo Kolis community were consulted and motivated. They were informally and verbally interviewed for knowing of their ethnobotanical knowledge.

The collected plant specimens were identified by using standard floras [5-10].

The Plant specimens were arranged alphabetically according to their Botanical name, local name, family, plant parts used and ethnobotanical uses have been enumerated in sequential manner finally. The herbarium specimens were deposited in the Herbarium of Botany Department, P.V.P.College Pravaranagar (Loni) Dist Ahmednagar and Botanical Survey of Pune for future reference.

#### Enumeration

*Solanum surattense*, Burm.f.

Local Name:-Laxmi-ringni

Family:- Solanaceae

Plant part used:-leaf

Ethnobotanical uses:-Fresh leaves are boiled in water with a pinch of common salt and crushed later on with 2-3 garlic cloves to obtain an extract. Same extract with honey massaged on the body part suffering from muscular pains.

*Solanum nigrum*, Linn.

Local Name:-Kamoni

Family:- Solanaceae

Plant part used:-fruit

Ethnobotanical uses: - pulp from fresh and matured fruits is mixed with mustard oil and applied on mouth ulcer.

*Datura innoxia*, Mill.

Local Name:-Dhotra

Family:- Solanaceae

Plant part used:- seed

Ethnobotanical uses:-seed powder from the plant is mixed with tobacco leaf powder in equal quantity and same mixture is used for cleaning the teeth in order to cure toothache.

*Heterophragma quadriangulare* (Roxb.) K.Schum.

Local Name:-Muras

Family:- Bignoniaceae

Plant part used:- leaf

Ethnobotanical uses:-An extract from fresh leaves mixed with Korphad leaf juice (*Aloe vera*) and neem (*Azadirachta indica*) oil in equal quantity. Same preparation is used for curing the skin infection on forehead by fungi or bacteria.

*Trichodesma indicum* (Linn.)Br.

Local Name:-Andh-pushpi

Family:- Boraginaceae

Plant part used:-flower

Ethnobotanical uses:-Flower petal's extract made in sheep milk is given with honey to the patient suffering from blood dysentery.

*Cordia dichotoma*, Forst.

Local Name:-Bhokar

Family:- Boraginaceae

Plant part used:- fruit

Ethnobotanical uses:-pulp from fresh and mature fruit is mixed with latex from Baniyan (*Ficus bengalensis*) tree in equal quantity and the mixture obtained is given to the lady patient suffering from bloody exudates through vagina.

*Cordia gharaf* (Forsk.)Ehrenb. & Asch.

Local Name:-Gondhan

Family:- Boraginaceae

Plant part used:- stem bark

Ethnobotanical uses:-Inhabitants from the study area consume stem bark from the plant along with Nagin (*Piper betle*) leaf pasted with lime for curing chronic cough.

*Withania somnifera* Dunal

Local Name: -Dhor-Gunj

Family:- Solanaceae

Part used:- root

Ethnobotanical Uses: - tuber's extract from root with cow ghee is taken internally by the patient once daily for 12-15 days for curing stomachache.

*Terminalia catappa*, Linn.

Local Name:-Badam

Family:- Combretaceae

Plant part used:-seed

Ethnobotanical uses:-Seeds are roasted in cow ghee and consumed in early morning by the youngsters for eaten by the inhabitants along with old jaggery (Gur) early in the morning for increasing muscular strength.

*Cissampelos pareira*, Linn.

Local Name:-Pahad vel

Family:- Menispermaceae

Plant part used:-whole plant

Ethnobotanical uses:-Whole plant juice with honey in equal quantity is mixed in sheep milk and the preparation is given to patient for curing Jaundice.

*Cocullus hirsutus*, Diels. Syn. *C. villosus*. DC.

Local Name:-Vasanwel

Plant part used:- stem bark

Ethnobotanical uses:-stem bark powder is mixed Korphad leaf (Aloe vera) gel and applied externally in cure of skin infections on the forehead.

*Tephrosia purpurea* Pers.

Local Name:- Shurp-nakha

Family:- Fabaceae

Part used:- root

Ethnobotanical Uses:-Fresh root decoction prepared in warm water is consumed twice a day for 4-5 days in order to strengthen teeth.

*Tinospora cordifolia*, (Willd.) Miers ex Hook. f. & Thoms

Local Name:-Gulwel

Family:- Menispermaceae,

Plant part used:- Stem bark

Ethnobotanical uses:- Fresh stem bark extract with coconut milk in 1:5 proportion is given to wrestlers for strengthening the muscles.

*Cardiospermum helicacabum*, Linn.

Local Name:-Kapalphodi

Family:-Celastraceae,

Plant part used:- seed

Ethnobotanical uses:-Immature seeds are boiled with a pinch of common salt in water and used for preparation of curry.

*Schleichera oleosa* (Lour.)Oken.

Local Name:-Kusum.

Family:- Sapindaceae

Plant part used:- fruit

Ethnobotanical uses:-Mature fruit pulp along with small quantity of common salt is consumed by the pregnant women for healthy growth of foetus in her uterus.

*Jatropha gossypifolia* Linn.

Local Name:- Mogli Erand

Family:- Euphorbiaceae,

Part used:- Seed

Ethnobotanical Uses:- 1-2 teaspoon of crude seed oil is mixed in goat's milk is consumed by the people early in the morning once daily for 2-3 days in order to cure diarrhoea.

*Sapindus laurifolius*, Vahl.

Local Name:-Ritha

Family:- Sapindaceae

Plant part used:- Fruit

Ethnobotanical uses:- an extract from matured and fresh fruits is mixed with termite affected soil. Same soil mixture is then used as an antidote for scorpion sting.

*Ruta graveolens*, Linn.var.*angustifolia* Hook.f

Local Name:-Sataab

Family:- Rutaceae

Plant part used:- Leaf

Ethnobotanical uses:-fresh leaf extract in honey obtained from neem tree is given to patient suffering from helminthiasis.

Cleome gynandra, Linn.

Local Name:- Pandhari Tilwan

Family:-Capparidaceae,

Part used: flower

Ethnobotanical uses:- extract from flower petals is given to the lady patient suffering from excessive haemorrhage.

Feronia limonia, (Linn.)Swingle.

Local Name:-Kawath

Family:- Rutaceae

Plant part used:- leaf

Ethnobotanical uses:-Fresh leaves are eaten as raw by the animal grazers for relieving thirst.

Citrus medica, Linn.

Local Name:-idilimbu

Family:- Rutaceae

Plant part used:- fruit

Ethnobotanical uses:- juice from mature fruit with a pinch of sugar and same quantity of common salt is given to patient suffering from blood dysentery.

Abrus precatorius Linn.

Local Name: Gunj

Family:Fabaceae,

Part used: Leaf

Ethnobotanical Uses:-leaf powder boiled water is given to the patient suffering from hypoglycemia.

Datura stramonium, Linn.

Local Name:-Sadha-dhotra

Family:- Solanaceae

Plant part used:-leaf

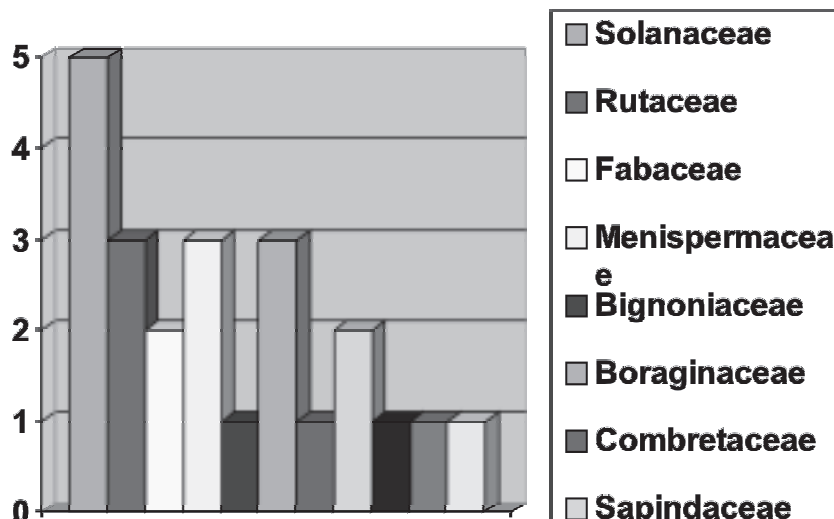
Ethnobotanical uses:-Fresh leaves are boiled in water and are tied on painful knee and shoulder in order to get relief.

#### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In all total 23 plant species from 11 families have been reported. These plants are consumed by the inhabitants (Mahadeo Kolis) for curing certain human ailments. Out of these plant species belong to Angiosperms group families. Few plants of this locality possess potential of better economic exploitation. Some of the important plant species among them are *Schleichera oleosa* (Lour.)Oken (Kusum), *Sapindus laurifolius*, Vahl (Ritha), *Ruta graveolens*, Linn.var.*angustifolia* Hook.f (Sataab) *Feronia limonia*, (Linn.)Swingle, (Kawath), *Citrus medica*, Linn (idilimbu), *Cardiospermum helicacabum*, Linn. (Kapalphodi), *Cleome gynandra*, Linn (pandhri Tilwan), *Abrus precatorius* Linn (gunj), *Datura stramonium*, Linn. (Sadha Dhotra), *Cissampelos pareira*, Linn. (Pahadvel) and *Withania somnifera* (Dhor-gunj) etc.

Sr.no	Family	No of plant species
1	Solanaceae	5
2	Rutaceae	3
3	Fabaceae	2
4	Menispermaceae	3
5	Bignoniaceae	1
6	Boraginaceae	3
7	Combretaceae	1
8	Sapindaceae	2
9	Euphorbiaceae	1
10	Celastraceae	1
11	Capparidaceae	1
	Total	23

In the present work 5 plants from Solanaceae; 3 plant species from Rutaceae; 2 plants from Fabaceae; 3 plants from Menispermaceae; 1 plants from Bignoniaceae; 3 plants from Boraginaceae; 1 plants from Combretaceae; 2 plants from Sapindaceae; 1 plants from Euphorbiaceae; 1 plants from Celastraceae and 1 plants from Capparidaceae family have discussed

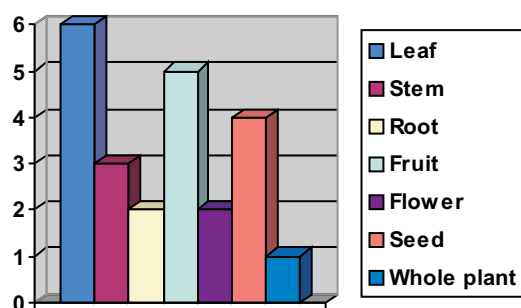


Graphical representation of families used: 1

At the same time in same time present work also enumerates brief summary of plant parts used for the traditional ethnomedicinal purposes.

Sr.no	Part used	Number of plants
1	Leaf	6
2	Stem	3
3	Root	2
4	Fruit	5
5	Flower	2
6	Seed	4
7	Whole plant	1

Out of the 23 plant species recorded, in 6 plants leaf part; in 3 plants stem part; in 2 plants root part; in 4 plants seed part; in 1 plants whole plant part; in 2 plants flower part and in 5 plants leaf part is used for formulation of medicine



Since all these plant species were used in more or less proportion throughout the world by the man, for completing his basic need, it is our prime duty protect and conserve and maintain them in a proper way for future use.

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